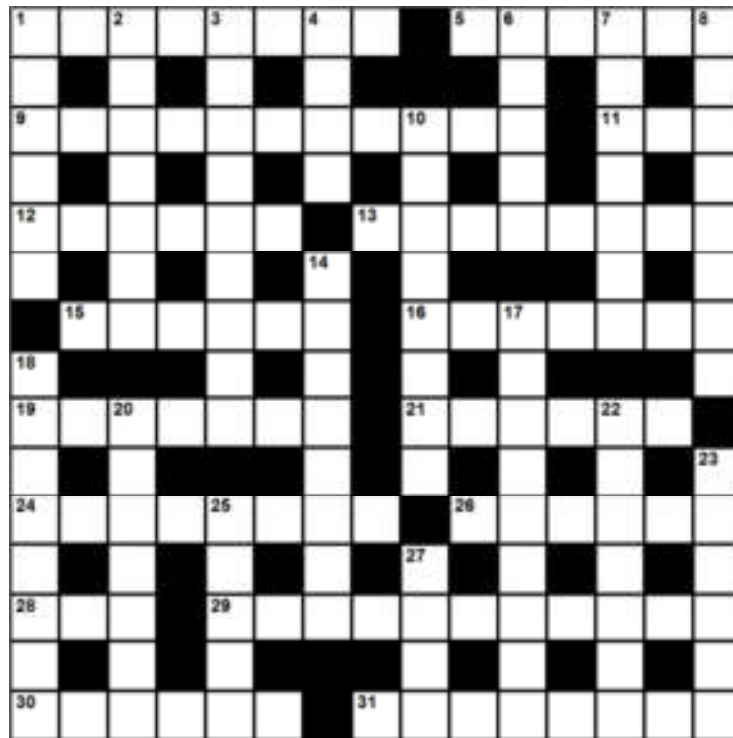


**NTSPP – 021**  
**A Puzzle by Biddle**



**Across**

- 1 See 16
- 5 Your life could be saved by this dry, unattractive woman (3,3)
- 9 Near box is one running something 20 25 and 27 6 almost needed recently. (5,6)
- 11 Acceptable in service? 27 6 could barely do this at the end (3)
- 12 Lower man, so long as high-up woman follows (6)
- 13 Patience, perhaps, in each heart of batter returning after duck (8)
- 15 A lady who could be trembly, with second letter missing (6)
- 16/1 His parallel race confused one in long contest against 1D, 8. (7,8)
- 19 Northern editor discovered with whiskey in respected publishing organisation confessed to crimes (5,2)
- 21 Conclusion I've come to: I can be used in salads (6)
- 24 Bridge? Actually it's 26 that's been played a few miles from here recently (8)
- 26 Error on net returns? A source of income for 16 1A, 1D 8, 20 25 and 27 6 (6)
- 28 Pass short message to religious community (3)
- 29 S, or R in some countries? (4,2,5)
- 30 Find a new home? That's about it in the home counties (6)
- 31 Home care for little chap, possibly beloved (8)

**Down**

- 1/8 Speedy follower in cartoons chasing kitchen equipment around house for 26 star. (6,8)
- 2 Mean return for soldiers, provided in American city (7)
- 3 Went back to pay for drug, though owing money (9)
- 4 Look! It's timeless superhero's girlfriend (4)
- 6 See 27
- 7 Take back last criminal in offenders' institution (7)
- 8 See 1
- 10 Fashionable part of trousers making a profit (2,6)
- 14 Communist played with a resident of China (3,5)
- 17 He gets line put in a box by someone else (9)
- 18 One enjoying a quick trip, once found in Capri? (3,5)
- 20/25 Outlast machine, maybe? - Energy and grit finally lacking, he couldn't outlast 27 6 (7,5)
- 22 Graves, perhaps, in French territory - territory visited by Vikings long ago (7)
- 23 Dances around mount (6)
- 25 See 20
- 27/6 Conqueror of 20 25, unpopular king is nothing short of a tyrant (4,5)